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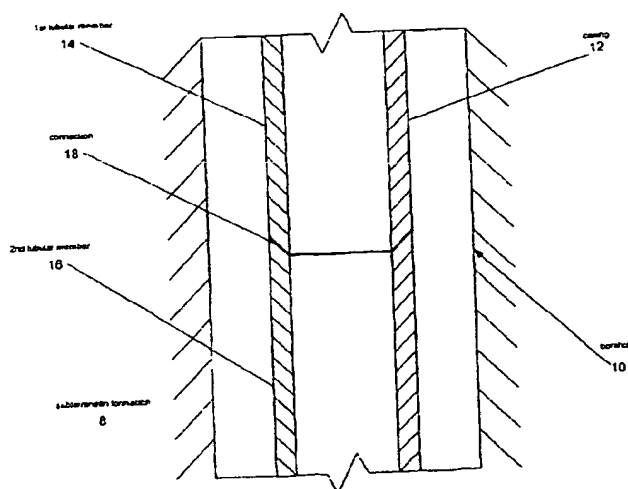
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(54) Title: A METHOD OF RADially EXPANDING AND PLASTICALLY DEFORMING TUBULAR MEMBERS



(57) Abstract: A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular assembly comprising a first tubular member, a second tubular member, and a mechanical coupling for coupling the first tubular member to the second tubular member, the method comprising placing the mechanical coupling in tension; and then radially expanding and plastically deforming the mechanical coupling. It is emphasized that this abstract is provided to comply with the rules requiring an abstract to allow a searcher or other reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the technical disclosure; and is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to limit the scope or meaning of the claims under 37 CFR 1.72.

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International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 166/277,382,207,208

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 166/277,382,207,208,297,55,55.1,206,212,216,214,242.1,242.2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-------------|--|--|
| X — Y | US 6,607,220 B2 (Sivley, IV) 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003), Figures. | 1,4,6,13,17,18,20,21,25 28,30,33- 38,41,44,45,53,57,58,6 0,61,65-70,73,76,77 ----- 2,3,5,7-12,14-16,19,22- 24,26,27,29,31,32,39,4 0,42,43,45,47-52,54- 56,59,62- 64,71,72,74,75 |
| Y | US 6,543,552 B1 (Metcalf et al.) 08 April 2003 (08.04.2001), Figures. | 2,3,5,7-12,14-16,19,22- 24,26,27,29,31,32,39,4 0,42,43,45,47-52,54- 56,59,62- 64,71,72,74,75 |



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| A,P | US 2004/0231839 A1 (Ellington et al.) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004), Figures. | 1-77 |
| A,P | US 2004/0060706 A1 (Stephenson) 01 April 2004 (01.04.2004), Figures. | 1-77 |
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| A | US 6,527,049 B2 (Metcalf et al.) 04 March 2003 (04.03.2003), Figures. | 1-77 |
| A,P | US 6,722,443 B1 (Metcalf) 20 April 2004 (20.04.2004), Figures. | 1-77 |